

ARKANSAS WETLAND STRATEGY
to develop the Arkansas Wetlands Conservation Plan

Date:	1992 – Present; goal to complete the Arkansas Wetlands Conservation Plan (AWCP) by the year 2000
Organizational Structure:	<p>Multi-Agency Wetland Planning Team (MAWPT) formed in response to the Governor’s Wetland and Water Resources Task Force</p> <p>Composed of 12 representatives from 6 state agencies including: Arkansas Natural Heritage, Arkansas Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Cooperative Extension Service – University of Arkansas, Arkansas Department of Pollution and Ecology, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism</p>
Consensus:	
Coordinated by:	<p>Multi-agency sponsorship</p> <p>Project funded by a State Wetland Grant from EPA, Region 6</p>
Process:	
Components:	<p>GOAL: The goal of the AWCP is to focus state resources into one coordinated effort to achieve a “grass-roots” approach to wetlands conservation which emphasizes voluntary participation and incentive programs. The AWCP includes:</p> <p>1) <u>Watershed Strategy</u>: identification and prioritization of potential areas within the watershed for voluntary preservation, restoration, and/or enhancement efforts to promote efficient utilization of funding resources.</p> <p>2) <u>Wetland Strategy</u>: non-watershed specific evaluation of state wide issues and recommended steps for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Arkansas Wetland Conservation Plan.</p> <p>AWCP OBJECTIVES:</p> <p>1) Achieve “no net loss” and a long term net gain of wetland function and value in each Region.</p> <p>2) Characterize the composition, function and landscape patterns of wetlands in Arkansas.</p>

- 3) Conduct analyses that identify priority wetland protection and restoration sites, based on the characteristics, distribution and functions of existing wetlands in Arkansas.
- 4) Develop better understanding of wetland hydrology, composition, structure, functions and values as well as techniques for management and restoration through research of Arkansas wetlands.
- 5) Increase the quantity and enhance the quality of Arkansas wetlands on public lands through coordinated acquisition and improved stewardship.
- 6) Increase the level of public and landowner knowledge and benefits from wetlands conservation on private lands through education and incentives for wetland protection, restoration, stewardship and enhancement.
- 7) Support creation of urban riparian/wetland greenbelts for public use, education and urban wildlife habitats.
- 8) Increase wetland information delivery to local government, the public and the schools.
- 9) Develop administrative organizational structure for private and public mitigation activities.
- 10) Develop state capacity for tracking wetland activity and long-term monitoring of wetland restoration and protection efforts.